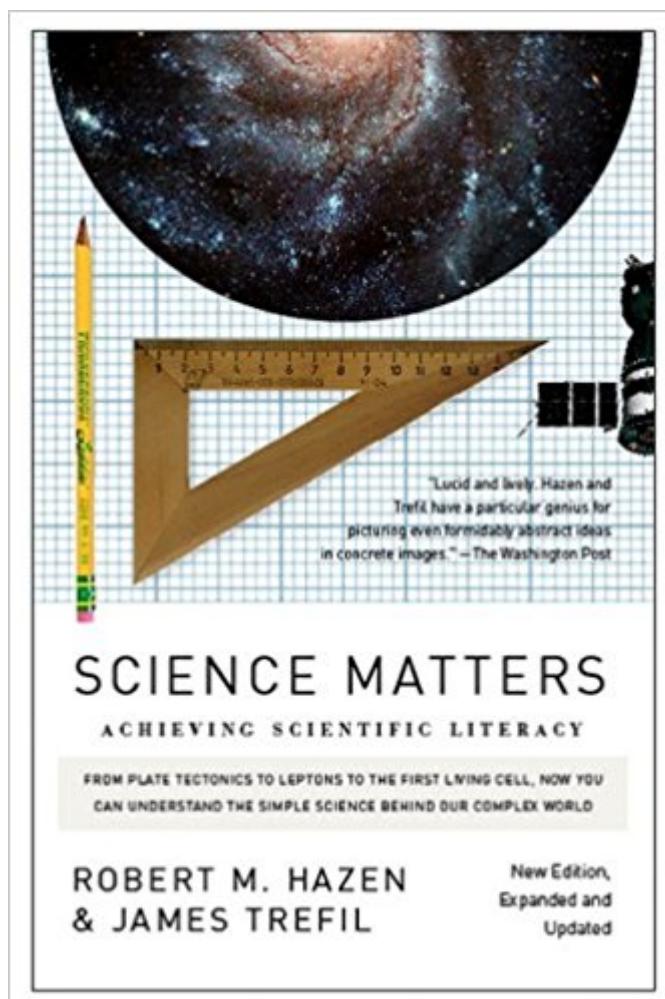


The book was found

Science Matters: Achieving Scientific Literacy



Synopsis

Knowledge of the basic ideas and principles of science is fundamental to cultural literacy. But most books on science are often too obscure or too specialized to do the general reader much good. *Science Matters* is a rare exception—a science book for the general reader that is informative enough to be a popular textbook for introductory courses in high school and college, and yet well-written enough to appeal to general readers uncomfortable with scientific jargon and complicated mathematics. And now, revised and expanded for the first time in nearly two decades, it is up-to-date, so that readers can enjoy Hazen and Trefil's refreshingly accessible explanations of the most recent developments in science, from particle physics to biotechnology.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

These 18 lucid essays on chemistry, physics, geology, astronomy and biology help readers comprehend today's science news. "Hazen and Trefil . . . demystify many advanced topics with succinct, if often reductive analogies: Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle becomes a car wreck in a dark tunnel, for example," said PW. Illustrated. Copyright 1991 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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—“Lucid and lively. Hazen and Trefil have a particular genius for picturing even formidably abstract ideas in concrete images. . . . *Science Matters* is as good as they get.” —The Washington Post Book World—“Hazen and Trefil [are] unpretentious—good,

down-to-earth, we-can-explain-anything science teachers, the kind you wish you had but never did. • The New York Times Book Review • A book that even scientifically literate readers can consult . . . if they find their recollection of relativity or quantum mechanics getting shaky. • New Scientist • Ordered and accessible, never daunting, never jumping ahead of itself. . . . If you've always thought you could never understand science, Hazen and Trefil will show you you're wrong. • Washington Monthly • A thoughtful and concise overview of what the citizen needs to know about science. • E. D. Hirsch, Jr. • Science does matter, as this book shows. • Isaac Asimov • A model of clarity and coherence. • Leon M. Lederman, winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics • Lucid. . . . Will cause readers to wonder what was so confusing about the Periodic Table of Elements they confronted in their school days. • Publishers Weekly • A first rate exposition-thorough, accessible, and entertaining-of the rudiments of scientific knowledge. • Kirkus Reviews • A confident overview of the fundamentals of science. . . . Comprehensible and carefully paced. • Booklist

Robert Hazen is has a phenomenal ability to bring science to an understandable level. This is a very important book that discusses the need for educated people to be scientifically literate. With the war on science currently raging in our nation, books such as this are more important than ever.

I recently participated in a 50-question science literacy survey and, after scoring 62%, realized I wasn't half the science geek I thought I was. It was a sad day. Fortunately, there's a cure! I realized that I either didn't know (or had forgotten since school) many of the fundamental principles of science. Determined to improve my literacy, I found this book and, given the generally high reviews, opted to give it a read. Yes! Science Matters is exactly what I was looking for. It easily restored my understanding of general science topics. There is much in the book I'd previously learned, or known, but had simply forgotten over time. In this regard, the book served as an excellent refresher for material I haven't given much thought to since high school. Additionally, there was plenty of material I simply wasn't aware of, and absorbed eagerly and easily from this book. If you've ever turned on a light switch, watched the light come on, and said to yourself, "Huh, I wonder how that works?" If you've ever wondered why the Sun shines, why the sky is blue, how nuclear power is generated, why iron rusts, and what all this "quantum" shenanigans is about - read this book. When you're done, go back and re-read some of the news articles about the activities at CERN's Large

Hadron Collider, or current discussions about global climate change. You'll find your understanding dramatically improved.

Education unfortunately had decided that science does not matter. Dr. Hazen provides us with reasons to the contrary. Civilizations would certainly not have advanced to where we are today if science was put on a back shelf. And we run the risk of falling behind if students' curiosity is not perked. Dr. Hazen describing the threads of science clearly should incentivize us all to return to the fore and bring back science to mainstream education.

This is a great book for all readers and an amazing book for the non-scientists who just want to know what it's all about. It is an easy read and while simple it is never dull. I have been encouraging people to give it a try or give it to a child.

A good and simple review, which is very useful for boning up on the big picture of science. The author does get surprisingly opinionated at some points, which struck me as odd for a science review - but, I would highly recommend the book.

Any one who teaches science, or is taking a science class, this is the basics. I have used this as a source for writing and close reading assignments in my classroom. I teach HS with students who are language learners. This book is clear, much easier to understand than most textbooks. I add pictures and graphs for students to reference.

Great additional science book to a high school bio class

was assigned to my high school child as summer reading and it covers the overall bases.

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